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Paper No. 9  
**MAIL**

**MAY - 2 2003**

In re Application of:  
Acosta et al.  
Application No. 09/936,682  
Filed: September 17, 2001  
For: **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR  
ANALYZING AND IMAGING THREE-  
DIMENSIONAL VOLUME DATA SETS**

: DIRECTOR OFFICE  
: TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

: DECISION ON PETITION  
: TO MAKE SPECIAL

This is a decision on the petition to make special filed on September 17, 2001, under MPEP 708.02 VI: Energy.

A petition to make special under the Manual of Patent Examination Procedure) §708.02 VI must be accompanied by a statement explaining how the invention materially contributes to the discovery or development of energy resources or the more efficient utilization and conservation of energy resources. No fee is required.

The petition meets all the above-listed requirements. After careful consideration, it appears the Applicant's disclosure is sufficiently and substantially directed towards seismic analysis and interpretation, which can be directly used in the efficient discovery of underground oil resources.

Accordingly, the petition is **GRANTED**.

The application will retain its special status throughout its entire prosecution, including any appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, subject only to diligent prosecution by the applicant. After mailing this decision, the application will be forwarded to the examiner for immediate handling.

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